

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-17

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5751

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E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN, PINS, APER, MX

SUBJECT: GUADALAJARA KIDNAPPING: SPECIAL REPORT ON POLICY
CONSIDERATIONS AND STATEMENT OF STATE DEPARTMENT SOURCES IN
MEXICAN PRESS

1. U. S. AND MEXICAN POLICY REGARDING TERRORISTS KIDNAPPING
AND PARTICULARLY THAT OF GUADALAJARA CONSUL GENERAL TERRANCE
G. LEONHARDY WAS THOROUGHLY AIRED BY MEXICAN NEWSPAPERS TODAY.

2. THE US. S. VIEWPOINT WAS BASED ON WIRE SERVICE ACCOUNTS
(AP, UPI, EFE) AND WAS ATTRIBUTED TO STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS,
WHO REPORTEDLY SAID NEGOTIATIONS TOWARD THE LIBERATION OF
LEONHARDY WERE " ENTIRELY IN THE HANDS OF THE GOVERNMENT AND
POLICY OF MEXICO".

3. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS QUOTED A STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN
AS SAYING, " ALL DECISIONS ARE BEING TAKEN BY THE MEXICAN
GOVERNMENT. IT IS THE POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES THAT THE
RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENT IS SOVEREIGN AND WILL HAVE TO TAKE
DECISIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS BEST JUDGMENT. OUR GENERAL
POINT OF VIEW ON TERRORISM HAS NOT CHANGED".

4. THE AP REPORT POINTED OUT THAT, " PRESIDENT NIXON, SECRETARY
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OF STATE ROGERS AND OTHERS HAVE PUBLICLY DECLARED THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL NOT BE BLACKMAILED BY KIDNAPPERS".

5. STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMEN, ACCORDING TO A UPI STORY, ALSO AFIRMED THAT THE U. S. HAD NOT PRESSURED ME I WANT TO UNDERSCORE THE FACT THAT THE PRESIDENT, AFTER CONSIDERING THE BUDGETARY AND BALANCE OF PAYMENTS CONSTRAINTS, STILL FEELS STRONGLY THAT WE MUST GIVE PRIORITY TO OUR PAST AGREEMENTS TO PROVIDE FUNDS TO THE INTER- AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK. THE PRESIDENT' S 1974 BUDGET INCLUDES \$500 MILLION IN CONCESSIONAL FUNDS FOR THE BANK. IN ADDITION, THERE IS BEFORE THE CONGRESS A \$193 MILLION CAPITAL SUBSCRIPTION REQUEST MAINLY IN THE FORM OF GUARANTEE AUTHORITY FOR ADDITIONAL BANK BORROWINGS IN CAPITAL MARKETS.

WE WILL PRESS FOR APPROPRIATION OF THESE AMOUNTS. BUT THE CONGRESS WILL INDEPENDENTLY EXAMINE PRIORITIES AND FRANKLY SPEAKING, I CANNOT DESCRIBE THE CONGRESSIONAL PROSPECTS AS OTHER THAN UNCERTAIN. IF WE CAN CLEARLY SHOW THAT THIS BANK PLAYS A CRUCIAL ROLE IN BUILDING STRONGER ECONOMIES IN LATIN AMERICA, THEREBY CONTRIBUTING TO ECONOMIC STABILITY AND A PEACEFUL WORLD, THERE MAY BE GROUNDS FOR GREATER OPTIMISM. IN THIS REGARD, THE BANK HAS A REAL RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT. LAST YEAR, TOTAL MARKET RATE AND CONCESSIONAL LENDING REACHED \$800 MILLION AND THE QUALITY OF THE BANK' S PROGRAMS CONTINUED TO IMPROVE. A NUMBER OF SPECIFIC ACTIONS TAKEN LAST YEAR TO MAKE THE BANK MORE EFFECTIVE ALSO DESERVE SPECIAL NOTE.

SEVERAL YEARS AGO THIS BANK ESTABLISHED THE FIRST INDEPENDENT EVALUATION MECHANISM OF ANY OF THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS. THIS WAS A HEALTHY STEP. IT WAS OF PARTICULAR CONCERN TO THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS AS A MEANS OF INSURING EFFECTIVE USE OF BANK FUNDS.

THIS EVALUATION GROUP CARRIED OUT LAST YEAR THREE MORE IN- DEPTH EVALUATIONS OF BANK PROGRAMS, RESULTING IN MAJOR IMPORVEMENTS IN THE BANK' S OPERATIONS-- AND ADDITIONAL EVALUATIONS ARE IN PROCESS. THE BANK' S ABILITY AND WILLINGNESS TO PROFIT FROM CONSTRUCTIVE, INDEPENDENT EVALUATION PROVIDE THE BEST GUARANTEE TO DONORS AND RECIPIENTS THAT THE INSTITU- LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TION WILL CONTINUE TO EVOLVE TO MEET CHANGING CONDITIONS AND MEET THE NEEDS OF ITS MEMBERS.

THE THRUST FOR IMPROVED OPERATING EFFICIENCY WAS ALSO CARRIED FORWARD SIGNIFICANTLY BY THE IMPLEMENTATION DURING THE LAST 12 MONTHS OF THE REORGANIZATION RECOMMENDATIONS THAT GREW OUT OF AN INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT' S STUDY.

ANOTHER MILESTONE IN THE BANK'S PROCESS OF CHANGING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROGRESS OF THE REGION WAS PASSED LAST YEAR. THE BOARD OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS ACTED TO IMPLEMENT THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS' DECISION THAT IT WAS NOW APPROPRIATE TO PHASE DOWN SOFT LOANS TO THE RICHER COUNTRIES, IN ORDER TO INCREASE THE FLOW OF THESE FUNDS TO THE POORER NATIONS OF THE REGION WHOSE ECONOMIES ARE NOT YET ABLE TO ACCEPT SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNTS OF LOANS ON COMMERCIAL TERMS. THESE RELATIVELY LESSER DEVELOPED NATIONS WILL ALSO NEED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN PROJECT IDENTIFICATION AND PREPARATION. MUCH OF THIS ASSISTANCE COULD NOW BE PROVIDED BY THE MORE ADVANCED MEMBERS OF THE REGION THEMSELVES. THEY HAVE GAINED PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE IN OVERCOMING MANY OF THE DIFFICULTIES WHICH LESSER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES STILL FACE.

ALSO, THE BANK IS TAKING STEPS TO INCREASE ITS DONOR COUNTRY MEMBERSHIP. THIS WILL BROADEN THE RESOURCE BASE OF THE INSTITUTION, MAKE IT LESS DEPENDENT ON THE UNITED STATES, AND DO SO IN A WAY WHICH FULLY PRESERVES THE FUNDAMENTAL HEMISPHERIC NATURE OF THE BANK.

I MUST ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THERE REMAIN POLICY PROBLEMS WHICH AFFECT THE BANK AND THE ABILITY OF THE UNITED STATES TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR IT. THE BANK HAS A USEFUL ROLE TO PLAY AS AN INTERMEDIARY IN HELPING TO RESOLVE INVESTMENT DISPUTES, A ROLE BEST PLAYED OUT OF THE HEADLINES AND WITH QUIET PATIENCE. THESE DISPUTES CONTINUE TO AFFECT ECONOMIC HARMONY AND COOPERATION IN THE HEMISPHERE. THEY ARE THUS A MATTER OF INTERNATIONAL CONCERN, NOT JUST A BILATERAL ISSUE. WE WOULD HOPE THAT SUCH DISPUTES COULD BE SWIFTLY RESOLVED SO THAT THE IMPORTANT WORK OF DEVELOPMENT CAN GO FORWARD UNIMPEDED. BUT THE POSITION OF BOTH THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH AND THE CONGRESS OF MY COUNTRY IS CLEAR. U. S. TAXPAYERS' FUNDS SHOULD NOT BE PROVIDED TO NATIONS WHICH HAVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EXPROPRIATED PROPERTY OF UNITED STATES FIRMS WITHOUT THE PROMPT, ADEQUATE, AND EFFECTIVE COMPENSATION CONTEMPLATED, BOTH BY INTERNATIONAL LAW AND OUR DOMESTIC LAW.

THIS BANK WAS FOUNDED IN A SPIRIT OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION IN THE HEMISPHERE. ITS WORK HAS PROVEN THAT DIFFERENT NATIONS WORKING HARMONIOUSLY CAN ACCOMPLISH MUCH MORE TOGETHER THAN THEY CAN SEPARATELY. IN RECENT YEARS, THERE HAS BEEN A TENDENCY TO IGNORE THIS LESSON. IT IS UNQUESTIONABLE THAT HEMISPHERIC RELATIONS ARE PASSING THROUGH A PERIOD OF TRANSITION, AND NEW APPROACHES TO REGIONAL COOPERATION, SUCH AS THOSE BEING SOUGHT WITHIN THE OAS FRAMEWORK, ARE APPROPRIATE AND HEALTHY. I WOULD HOPE, HOWEVER, THAT WE DO NOT LOSE SIGHT OF THE COMMON OBJECTIVES THAT WE SHARE, AND OF THE

COOPERATION WE NEED TO ACCOMPLISH THESE OBJECTIVES, AND TO
ACHIEVE EQUITABLE ECONOMIC REFORM. THIS COOPERATION CAN FORM
THE BASIS OF A CONTINUED AND FRUITFUL RELATIONSHIP AMONG ALL
OUR NATIONS.

THERE ARE GREAT OPPORTUNITIES WHICH CONFRONT US. WE
MUST TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF THEM. FOR MY PART I WILL DO EVERY-
THING POSSIBLE TO SEE THAT CLOSE COOPERATION CONTINUES
BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND LATIN AMERICA AND THAT THE
INTER- AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK CONTINUES TO BE ABLE TO PLAY
ITS VITAL ROLE IN ACHIEVING ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROGRESS IN
LATIN AMERICA. END QUOTE.
DE ROULET

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